



# ***Gorilla Journal***

*Journal of Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*

*No. 24, June 2002*



**On the Trail of the  
Man who  
Discovered the  
Mountain Gorilla**

**Great Ape  
Trafficking in  
Kahuzi-Biega**

**Poachers Kill Two  
Mountain Gorillas**

**Good News for  
the Cross River  
Gorillas?**



# BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

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**Photo:** Courtesy Andreas von Beringe

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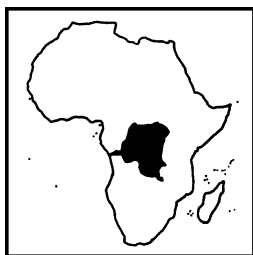
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### Great Ape Trafficking around the Kahuzi-Biega National Park

The commerce in bushmeat is seen as the primary threat to the short-term survival of the African great apes. This is a valid assertion in view of what is happening in the protected areas and their vicinity in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The sale of bushmeat, and trafficking in various species and wildlife products and by-products, are sufficient proof. With the commerce in bushmeat we can only imagine the number of great ape offspring that become orphans, and it constitutes an indicator of the diminution of the forest and decreases in animal populations. This trafficking has other serious consequences in that it leads to unbalanced ecosystems.

#### The Problem

Bukavu, the provincial capital of South Kivu in eastern Congo, has become a tragic place for wild animals, particularly the great apes. This started in 1996 as the result of the various wars and repetitive disorders in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park region. Indications of this are visible in the town itself and in the immediate vicinity of the park – various species of animals, especially live monkeys, and carnivores such as baby leopards and cheetahs. Trophies from elephants, gorillas and other primates, in the form of ivory, skulls, pelts, teeth, fingernails, bones, and other things are abundantly and clandestinely found throughout the town. The trafficking in live animals concerns especially the larger primates, gorillas and chimpanzees, and extends beyond the country's borders. Trafficking in other primates takes place within the country, either from one province to another or within a single province. The animals are kept in enclosures to amuse the

children and sometimes end up in the cooking pot.

The Kahuzi-Biega National Park is subject to the looting of its natural resources in a general way and is also being emptied of its wildlife. Since the control of the ICCN extends to only 10% of the park, the park managers are unaware of what is happening in the huge sections located in the lowland regions.

#### Brief Description of the Park Communication Service

For some years there has been a communication service about the destruction of the park's natural resources. This branch of the anti-poaching campaign outside of the protected area started to become systemized in 1999. The objective is to discourage, by surveillance allied with an environmental communications network, the poaching network that exists upstream and downstream. That is to say from the poachers to the controllers and through all the intermediaries.

The poachers often reside in the villages bordering the park, which is why these activities occur in the vicinity of the park. The affected areas are expanding because they were previously inaccessible for security reasons, and they have been more and more disturbed. Decree No 75/023, issued on July 22, 1975 gave us the



**Gorilla group in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park**



**Silverback male in Kahuzi-Biega**

*Photos: A. Kanyunyi Basabose*

authority to act within 50 km outside the park limits. Several Governmental services, including the National Police, Army, Justice Department, Environmental and Security Services, the ONGDS, as well as the politico-administrative authorities, collaborate with the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the collection of information. Thus, all of the park personnel are involved in the collection of information, even though there is a small team that is formally assigned the task. This team has been under my supervision since 1999. The limited experience acquired has enabled us to develop a strategy to dismantle the poaching networks in the vicinity of the park. Nevertheless, some gaps persist on the technical level as the result of the inadequate training of the park personnel directly involved in this activity.

#### Investigation and Discussion Results

Investigations of the trafficking and detention of wild animals have been lim-



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ited to the highland sector of the park. The identification phase of the areas involved and the wild animals being held continues up to the present time. Nevertheless, as far as the featured animals of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park are concerned, and those under the protection of the Washington Convention (CITES) that was ratified by the Democratic Republic of Congo, these are being recovered in a peaceful manner or with the assistance of the law enforcement authorities. Of course, these actions are always accompanied by environmental information meetings.

Insofar as the trafficking in gorillas is concerned, seven networks have been exposed by park teams since 1999. Apart from the baby gorilla Bitorwa, who was recovered and died shortly afterwards, others were killed

and it was the bones, skulls, and pieces of raw and cooked meat that served as evidence. The park communication service is still providing data on the networks trafficking in baby gorillas, but these networks are so strong, complex, and protected that the recovery of the young animals is impossible.

As to chimpanzees, they are heavily traded and their marketing is guaranteed. Since 1999, 16 live chimpanzee trafficking networks have been uncovered in the park. Eight animals have been identified and six recovered. Only one animal, which was deemed compatible, was left in one of the enclosures. Since these animals are totally under the protection of CITES, they are temporarily being kept at the CRSN in Lwiro, until a more permanent solution can be found. Two of the six chimpanzees recovered by the Kahuzi-Biega National Park died shortly thereafter. Jef Dupain reports that at Eboumetoum (Dja/Cameroon) a whole chimpanzee costs between 25,000 CFA and a quarter costs 5,000 CFA. In the town of Bukavu, a whole, smoked chimpanzee costs between US\$ 5 and US\$ 10, depending on whether it is sold in the market or delivered to a home. According to persons detained for trafficking, a live chimpanzee intended for trade costs much more.

### Present Situation of the Chimpanzees Held at Lwiro

Four chimpanzees are currently being held at Lwiro where accommodation and security facilities are available. Within the Biology Department of this research center there is a great ape service that contains appropriate human resources, equipment, and infrastructure.

When the chimpanzees are recovered by the park services they are often in poor health. They are rendered fragile as the result of being held for

long periods in the villages, under poor conditions (inappropriate diet, human contact, absence of shelter and care). Fortunately, the CRSN is specialized to care for these animals. Research personnel prepare diagnostics based on laboratory examinations, followed by medical treatment and proper diet. Park and center personnel keep records for the great apes. The files contain information concerning the origin of the animal, and details pertaining to its capture, detention, laboratory results, and so on... Data concerning parasites, pulmonary and dental information is also included. Overall, it may be said that the animals are healthy as a result of the favorable conditions under which they are being maintained.

### Looking to the Future

The strategy of this activity at the Kahuzi-Biega National Park is being enhanced by seeking a blending with the activity of the center. Only financial feasibility remains a problem.

Under present conditions at the park, only the Lwiro Center is ap-

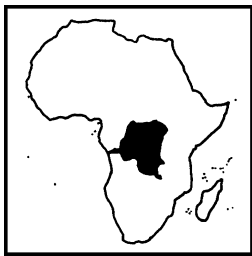


*This tape was produced for public awareness by the GTZ project at the Kahuzi-Biega Park. It contains Rumba music with texts about the park and its resources*



*Two chimpanzee orphans kept at the Lwiro Center*

*Photo: A. Kanyunyi Basabose*



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**Close-up of a chimpanzee in the orphanage**

Photo: A. Kanyunyi Basabose

appropriate for receiving these animals. Unless we hear to the contrary from the conservationists who read this, the CRSN with its specialists, laboratories, and a small forest will continue to assist in restoring the animal to a good physical and biological condition, to reassure it and readapt it to life in the forest so that it may be returned to the national park. In addition, if it is not an animal that is susceptible of being contaminated by man, it can be returned directly to its natural habitat.

For scientific research purposes, environmental training and study, some animals need to stay at the Lwiro Center in a sort of foster care, orphanage or zoo setting. Persons of good faith, who understand our cause, can assist the Kahuzi-Biega National Park and the Lwiro Center in achieving this objective. The Research Center and the CRSN remain the institution qualified to provide information on the biological state, ethology and other fundamental aspects of these animals in captivity.

All this does not prevent the park from continuing to appeal urgently to the international scientific community to act to slow the trafficking of protected wild animals throughout the world.

Chantal Shalukoma

### A New Ape Orphanage Project

The unrest following the war in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire) has led to the slaughter of a large number of gorillas in the montane forest sector of Kahuzi-Biega. The recent gorilla census completed in 2000 revealed that half of the gorilla population had been killed for meat. Only 130 individuals were counted during the census. Poachers in Bukavu illegally keep many gorilla and chimpanzee babies.

The park, in collaboration with Augustin Kanyunyi Basabose, researcher at the CRSN Lwiro and head of the laboratory of Primatology, Department of Biology, has launched a campaign to search for and confiscate all the ape babies kept by poachers and is planning to conduct an orphanage project at Lwiro. We have already received three chimpanzee babies (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*). A baby gorilla in a very bad health succumbed after we had tried our best to rescue him.

The orphanage project started with the three chimpanzee babies at Lwiro where Augustin Kanyunyi Basabose and his colleagues are looking after them. Our aim is to keep the babies until they are old enough to live freely in the forest without specific care. The park accepted to reintroduce them in their natural habitat when needed.

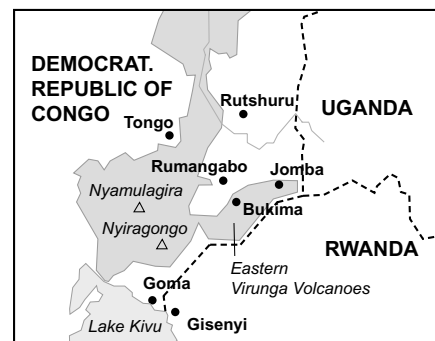
We received a small donation from GTZ/PNKB-Bukavu for the daily living cost including food, care and medicine, but it is not enough to fund the project. We are now looking for support to continue with our orphanage project. Our hope is that an international NGO dealing with animal conservation and especially great apes will support us in this task to restore hope to those threatened animals.

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### Nyiragongo Eruption

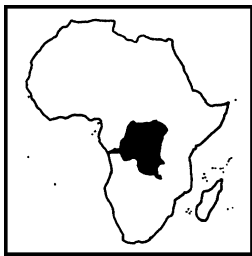
On 17 January 2002, the volcano Nyiragongo in eastern Congo erupted. It is situated within the southern sector of the Virunga National Park and is one of the western Virunga Volcanoes. While the eastern Virunga Volcanoes, where the mountain gorillas live, have been inactive for a long time, the western volcanoes are still active and erupt regularly.

When Nyiragongo erupted, the lava flowed to Goma in a single stream and finally covered about a fifth of the town. It was estimated that more than 100 people died and about 350,000 lost their homes and property. At least 16,000 homes were destroyed. As the volcano erupted during the harvest, much the food that was grown on the rich soils was lost too. It is not only Goma which depends on that food but also other regions of eastern Congo. The UN and relief organizations provided humanitarian support. Within less than two weeks, contributions to aid volcano victims in Goma had reached US\$ 26 million, the UN reported. The contributions were initially aimed at meeting the most basic needs of the affected population.



**The volcanoes Nyiragongo and Nyamulagira in the Parc National des Virunga. Mountain gorillas live in the Eastern Virunga Volcanoes (see map on page 11)**

Map: Angela Meder



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**Holger Schickor hands over a new computer to Claude Sikubwabo.**

Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo was not hurt, but he had to flee and lost his computer in one of the houses buried under the lava. In the meantime, a new one donated by a supporter of *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* was handed over to him. As e-mail access providers were also hit by the eruption, communication with North Kivu was cut for a long time.

Over three months after Mt. Nyiragongo erupted, people still were continuing to return to Goma. Many had been living in Rwanda for a few months and had nowhere to go. Their homes had been destroyed during the eruption and some were using tree branches and leaves to erect temporary shelters. Many people in Goma also lost their jobs after the eruption and schools were unable to resume classes until nearly a month after the volcano had erupted. In the meantime, relief organizations have continued to build schools and houses.

According to *World Vision*, five months after the eruption, small stalls selling sweets, cigarettes, and vehicle fuel were popping up across the lava, and business owners were raising their buildings of twisted metal and concrete to begin again. Unemployment has escalated, producing a massive drop in wages and non-essential business. The volcano eruption hit a region that has already been suffering for years. More about this you will find in the RI report *Beyond*

*the Volcano, A Slow Motion Holocaust* (<http://www.refintl.org/cgi-bin/ri/bulletin?bc=00363>)

*Summary of various press releases*

### Ongoing Pillage of Resources

In May, the UN reported on the consequences of the continued exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. According to their report, it has a ruinous effect on the civilian population.

The UN panel of experts said that the different foreign armies and armed groups – both foreign and Congolese – employ various strategies to divert revenues for personal gain or to pay foreign armies – either to maintain their support against rival groups or to finance continuing, existing military operations. Their immediate effect has been "the further collapse of most local economies and the deepening impoverishment of most Congolese families", according to the report.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian toll of this continuing exploitation is widespread, especially in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. "Local populations, including children, are being conscripted and used as forced labour in the extraction of resources by some military forces in different regions," the report said. Other tactics, such as the destruction of infrastructure for agricultural production, are allegedly used by different armed parties to force people to participate in extraction work, leading in part to increased food insecurity.

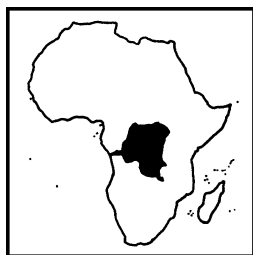
Oxfam, one of the few humanitarian agencies managing programs in Congo, released a report accusing Uganda of continued plunder of Congo's resources: *Poverty in the midst of wealth* (<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/policy/papers/drc/povertywealth.htm>). It was published after the vol-

### Conservation of Mt. Tshiaberimu (= Mt. Kyavirimu)

Although there are some efforts to ensure the conservation of the forests and the gorillas on this mountain within the Virunga National Park, it is very difficult. As local people still do not entirely support the national park, the most important effort is to convince them and cooperate with them.

This is the aim of the local organization CADAK. This NGO has been planning a public awareness campaign with professional trainers. Under this project, among other things, posters to promote the protection of the mountain will be printed and distributed widely. *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* has financed the printing of these posters. The other steps of the public awareness project, however, are still waiting for funding.





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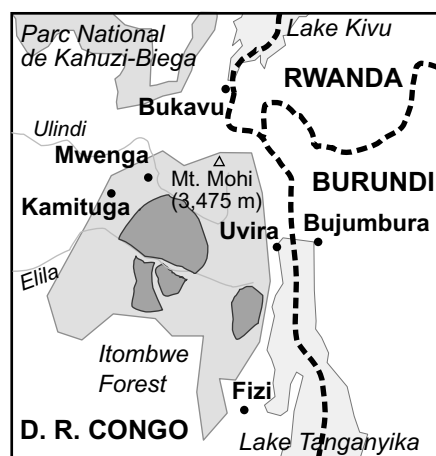
canic eruptions near Goma and was handed over to the French and British Foreign Ministers.

The report indicates that up to 2.5 million Congolese have died in less than 4 years from 1998 to 2002, many of them as a result of malnutrition and preventable disease, and that 65% of the estimated 35 million Congolese are undernourished.

*Summary of a UN press release*

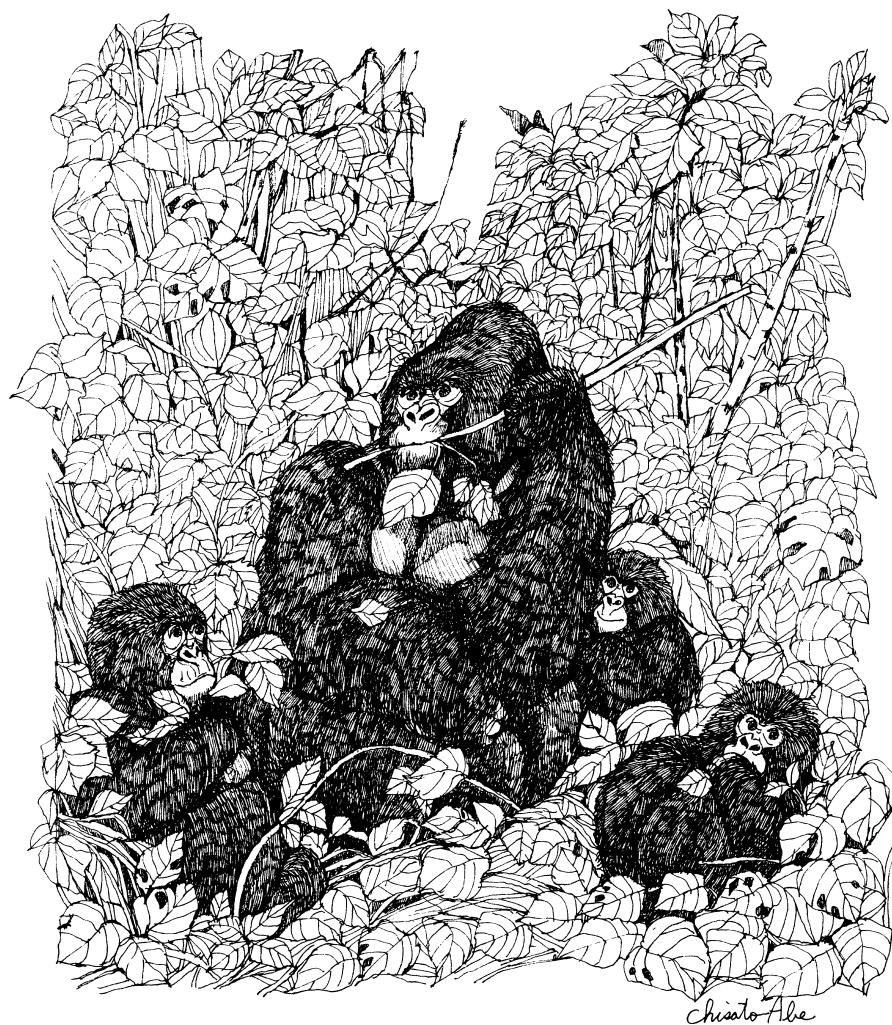
### Crisis on the Itombwe Plateau

The Itombwe mountains, a vast area with large forests, are the home of several gorilla populations. The area is not protected. Although there have been several attempts to create reserves for the gorillas and the exceptional fauna and flora of this region, these plans have always been thwarted by the wars. The Itombwe area has been a center of the conflict. Nobody knows whether gorillas have been killed there since the war started.



**The approximate extension of the Itombwe Forest and the gorilla distribution areas on the Itombwe Mountains (dark)**

*Map: Angela Meder*



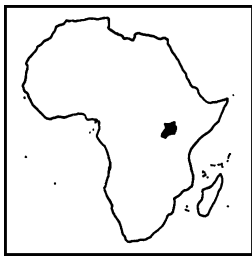
In July, fighting raged between mainly Rwandan army troops and Banyamulenge forces on the Minembwe/Itombwe Plateau. The town of Minembwe has the only airstrip in the region and is therefore strategically important. Up to 100 villages were deserted during the fights and some 40,000 people displaced. Some of them fled into the mountains. "Large numbers" of the displaced persons were facing the cold season on the plateau without shelter, blankets or warm clothing.

The fighting has prevented the Banyamulenge from grazing their cat-

tle over extensive areas. Food needs were becoming critical because the latest harvest had been massively depleted by the food requirements of the combatants. Banyamulenge were also being harassed and having their movements restricted in Uvira and Bukavu. In Burundi, the government has ordered the Banyamulenge into relocation camps in the northeast. However, the refugees are resisting the move, saying they will become targets for hostile Hutu forces in the new camp, which is close to the borders of Rwanda and Tanzania.

*Summary of an IRIN report*





## UGANDA

### Smuggling Network Destroyed

In May, UWA, together with the Ugandan Police and conservationists dismantled chimpanzee smugglers in an operation conducted in Kampala. They arrested four suspects and recovered two chimpanzees which were smuggled into Uganda from Congo. Two men were arrested in Mengo-Kisenyi as they were bargaining with two people who were posing as buyers. The sellers demanded US\$ 4,000 for a three-year-old chimpanzee. After interrogation, the suspects named a woman colleague in Kisenyi who was later arrested with her husband.

A week earlier, this couple had received US\$ 500 from Debbie Cox, JGI, to supply two chimps, a leopard and parrots. She recovered a chimpanzee less than one year old and promised that she would pay for all the animals. Unfortunately, the ape had been starved and died a day after being rescued. UWA officers suspect that the smugglers had kept the chimpanzee in Kampala.

Another recovered chimpanzee had been kept by Charles Lwanga, a Uganda Peoples Defence soldier who had been keeping the animal at his residence for the last six months. When it was confiscated and handed over to JGI, it was about one year old and severely malnourished.

Not all the arrested smugglers were punished appropriately. One of the four Congolese arrested for trafficking in chimpanzees was released by Buganda Road magistrate's court on a trivial bail. The Ugandan press criticized this severely. The Congolese were allegedly working with foreign diplomats and licenced wildlife exporters to smuggle the chimpanzees to Europe where they are sold as laboratory animals. Some rich people in the Middle East also want apes as pets.

The chimp smuggling network had already been smashed five years ago but now seems to be in danger of resurrecting. The Congolese smuggler should have been kept in jail until his trial was over. If he had to be given bail, it should have matched at least the value of the chimpanzee.

*Summary of New Vision articles*

### Interahamwe Present in Uganda

In May, news agencies reported that members of Rwanda's Hutu militia group Interahamwe were active in Uganda. The Joint Verification and Investigation Team set up by Rwanda and Uganda probed the activities of Rwandan dissidents and found some Interahamwe activity in the Mgahinga National Park area. According to the document there were "unconfirmed reports of Interahamwe presence in the dense forest of Bwindi". Clashes had also broken out in February between the Interahamwe and the Ugandan army, following the discovery of Interahamwe camps and leaflets containing propaganda against Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

Some Interahamwe had already „slipped“ into Uganda in the past – into the Mgahinga Park from Congo. The Ugandan government-owned newspaper *New Vision* reported that there were no camps in Uganda training Interahamwe fighters against the Rwandan Government. But Rwandan army spokesman Jean-Bosco Kazura said that there was evidence for Interahamwe presence in Kisoro District.

*Summary of an IRIN report*

### Park Borders Are Altered

According to *New Vision* (Kampala), the Ugandan Parliament decided in March to alter the boundaries of six national parks: Mt. Elgon, Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth, Bwindi Impenetrable, Mgahinga Gorilla and Rwenzori Mountain National Parks. The reason is that over 65,000 encroachers would have to be evicted if this resolution was not passed.

According to Richard Lamprey (Protected Area Assessment) there will be no significant change in the area of Mgahinga and Bwindi Park.



*Drawing: Chisato Abe*





# RWANDA

## On the Trail of the Man who Discovered the Mountain Gorilla

On October 17, 2002, it will have been exactly 100 years since the German Captain Robert von Beringe came across mountain gorillas on the Virunga Volcanoes. He left but a few biographical traces.

In the penultimate decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, two events drew the world's attention to the fate of the East African mountain gorillas, a sub-species threatened with extinction. On December 26, 1985, the American researcher Dian Fossey was murdered under circumstances that remain mysterious to this date. Dian Fossey had devoted almost 20 years of her life to the study and conservation of these good-natured, gigantic apes. Three years later, the film *Gorillas in the Mist* was shown in the cinemas. It is based on Dian Fossey's book that was published in 1983. The film deeply touched and delighted the many people who went to see it.

In contrast, the person who actually discovered the mountain gorillas, the German Captain Robert von Beringe, remains largely unknown. A plaque commemorates him at the entrance of the Virunga Conservation Area, where the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda meet. Erroneously, the plaque calls him "Oscar" instead of Robert. Only a few copies of the reports of his expeditions in this volcanic region remain in museum archives and special libraries. Most of his personal papers were destroyed in the Second World War bombing raids on Dresden.

Friedrich Robert von Beringe was born on September 21, 1865, in Aschersleben on the northeastern border of the Harz Mountains. He was the eldest son of Cavalry Captain Karl Robert von Beringe and his wife Mathilde Luise. His father was squad-



**Robert von Beringe with African soldiers**

ron leader in the second Hussar Regiment of Magdeburg, stationed in this small town in what is today Saxony-Anhalt, and was then a part of the Prussian kingdom. Three years later, Friedrich Robert's younger brother Gottlieb was born, also in Aschersleben. A sister, born in June 1867, died at the age of two months.

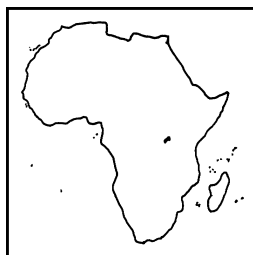
### A Career in the Colonial Army

Following the example of his father, Friedrich Robert von Beringe chose the career of an army officer. From 1894 to 1906 he belonged to the Hussar Regiment No. 1, the "Totenkopfhussaren" (Death's Head Hussars). During this time, von Beringe received the "Totenkopfring" (Death's Head Ring) and developed a deep friendship with August Mackensen, later Field Marshall von Mackensen. It was von Beringe's own wish to join the Imperial Colonial Army for German East Africa, which comprised today's countries Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

Having reached the rank of Lieutenant, he distinguished himself with a successful punitive expedition in September 1898. From the Kilwa military

post on the coast of the Indian Ocean he went against the rioting Watumbi, a mountain tribe of the coastal hinterland. As chief of the Usumbura Military Post (1902–1904), which today is Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, he led an even more significant military campaign. It was described in detail and its importance acknowledged in the *History of the Imperial Colonial Army in German East Africa* published in 1911. At the beginning of May 1903, von Beringe, who had been promoted to Captain by then, moved out from Usumbura with a force of eight Europeans, 115 askaris (African soldiers), two machine guns and about 300 auxiliary warriors, to campaign against the rebelling tribal chief Muezi Kisabo and "force him into submission and recognition of German rule". Kisabo managed to escape twice, but in July, after a prolonged pursuit, he finally gave himself up. So von Beringe's campaign achieved its political goal.

Von Beringe's success in natural history pursuits was not even fleetingly mentioned in the *History of the Imperial Colonial Army in German East Africa*. These interests, which



# RWANDA

led him onto the track of the mountain gorillas were, after all, rather more peaceful missions.

On August 19, 1902, Captain von Beringe set off from Usumbura Post heading north in order to visit German field posts in today's Burundi and Rwanda. The goal of the expedition was to maintain contact with local tribal chiefs, consolidate relationships with these chiefs, and to strengthen the power of and their respect for the German administration. The unit was small (but equipped with a machine gun) and included the medical officer Dr. Engeland, sergeant Ehrhardt, 20 askaris and a number of porters.

## Encounter on the Volcano's Summit

First, von Beringe paid a visit to Sultan Msinga of Rwanda. Then he continued on his way north in the direction of the chain of volcanoes in today's Volcano National Park. From 16 to 18 October, after they had reached the volcanoes, von Beringe, Dr. Engeland, some askaris and porters attempted to scale Kirunga ya Sabyingo (Mt. Sabyinyo) for the first time. Von Beringe estimated the volcano's altitude to be approximately 3,300 m.

On the evening of the first day they camped on a mountain saddle at about 2,400 m. Local people, who had climbed up, provided them with "ample food", as von Beringe later reported in the *Deutsches Kolonialblatt* (German Colonial Newspaper).

On October 17, 1902, Captain von Beringe and Dr. Engeland set off for

the summit, accompanied by five askaris and the required porters. They carried a tent and eight water containers. Initially they marched through bamboo forest with thick undergrowth. Although they tried to use elephant paths wherever possible, they often had to cut their way through the vegetation with machetes.

*After two hours we reached rock rubble with blackberry bushes and blueberry plants,*

von Beringe wrote of the continuing ascent.

*With every step, vegetation became scarcer, the hill became steeper and the going got more difficult, until we had to climb over great boulders during the last hour and a quarter. We were on a ridge that climbed in a south-westerly direction. Both sides of the ridge fell away steeply into deep gorges.*

At an altitude of 3,100 m, the two Germans put up their tent, after they had tried to level the ground with moss they had gathered. The ridge was so narrow that the tent pegs had to be fastened into the slopes. The askaris and the porters sheltered in rock caves and tried to protect themselves against the bitter cold with the help of fires.

And so the scene was set for the historic encounter that von Beringe described in the *Deutsches Kolonialblatt*:

*From our camp we saw a herd of large black apes who were trying to climb the highest point of the volcano. We succeeded in killing two*



**Portrait of Captain Robert von Beringe**

*large individuals. With a great rumbling noise of falling rocks, they fell into a crater opening towards the northeast. After five hours of strenuous work we managed to get one animal up on a rope.*

## A Baffling Discovery

The retrieved animal was a large, human-like, male ape with a body length of 1.5 m and a weight of more than 200 pounds. He had no chest hair, but enormous hands and feet.

*Unfortunately, I was not able to identify the genus the ape belonged to,*

the Captain wrote with regret. He thought that it could not be a chimpanzee because of the animal's size, and, until then, the gorillas that were known to live in the lowlands had not been found in the area of the East African Great Lakes.



**Mt. Sabyinyo**



*Photos: Cyril Grüter and Ulrich Karlowski*



# RWANDA

Robert von Beringe decided to send his discovery to the Zoological Museum in Berlin for examination. The ape's skin and one of his hands were eaten by a hyena on the way back to Usumbura. With the skull and the part of the skeleton that arrived in Berlin intact, Prof. Paul Matschie (1861–1926), who worked at the museum, was able to classify the animal as a new form of gorilla, which he called *Gorilla beringei* after the man who discovered it. Later the mountain gorilla was considered a subspecies (*Gorilla gorilla beringei*), but in the meantime Matschie's name is used again for the eastern gorilla.

In 1906, Captain von Beringe returned to Germany. On October 9, 1906, the slim and attractive 41-year old married the merchant's daughter Johanna Caroline Luise Edith Lademmann from Steglitz, whom he had met when he was out horse riding. The church wedding took place in the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche in Berlin. Robert von Beringe then continued his career in the army. He was in the Dragoon Regiment No. 11 of Wedel (the Pomeranian Regiment) until 1912, and thereafter in the Dragoon Regiment Prince Albrecht of Prussia No. 1 (the Lithuanian Regiment). He was promoted to Major in 1908 and

stayed a Major until he retired in 1913. He lived with his family – he had one son and one daughter – in Dresden until the beginning of the Second World War. After having suffered severely from diabetes for years, he died on July 5, 1940, in Stettin, where his daughter Ursula's parents-in-law lived.

*Andreas von Beringe*

*For their help with my research I am grateful to my mother, Friedel von Beringe, who met the "very quiet man" as Robert von Beringe's daughter-in-law; to my brother Niklas; to the Director of the Armed Forces History Museum in Rastatt, Dr. Joachim Niemeyer; to Dr. Harald Pieper, Zoological Museum Kiel.*

## Poachers Kill Mountain Gorillas and Steal a Baby

Rwandan police have arrested two people in connection with the killing of two gorillas and the disappearance of a baby gorilla in the country's first incident of poaching in 17 years. The two females of the Suza group, Muraha and Impanga, were attacked by poachers on 9 May, 2002, because they had infants nursing that the poachers were seeking to sell.

The killing was discovered by rangers the next day when routine checks revealed the body of the first gorilla



**Mountain gorilla in bamboo forest**

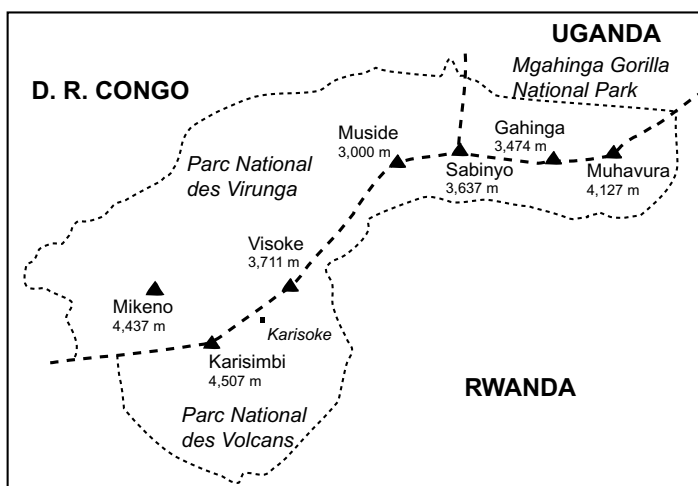
*Drawing: Chisato Abe*

with bullet wounds and her 2-year-old infant missing. The second gorilla, called Ubuzima, was found with the infant still beside her. For two days the 12-month-old must have been at the side of her dead mother. The poachers probably left her behind because they were afraid of the silver-back male.

The baby was treated for dehydration by the MGVC staff and after she had recovered, she was returned to the Suza group where she was adopted by a blackback male called Kwakane. But as she is only one year old and not fed by a lactating female, her chances to survive are not very good. Gorillas depend on their mother's milk for at least two years.

It seems that there is no trace of the older infant that was missing after the mother had been killed.

*Summary of various press releases and reports*



**Virunga Conservation Area**



# GORILLAS

## Good News for the Cross River Gorillas?

Results from surveys undertaken in 2000 and 2001 have indicated that there may be up to 180 Cross River gorillas remaining on the Cameroon side of the border. In 1999, it was estimated that up to 100 gorillas were still surviving in the Takamanda Forest Reserve, located in the South West Province of Cameroon, the only area in Cameroon then known to support Cross River gorillas. However, as research extended into the adjacent Mone Forest Reserve and the Mbulu Forest in 2000, the presence of gorillas was discovered in these contiguous forest areas and subsequent studies were undertaken to estimate their population density.

Although surveys to clarify gorilla distribution are still ongoing and this figure may be subject to change, these initial results confirm that the Cross River gorilla population is indeed larger than previously believed. Although this is positive news, unfortunately it does not mean that the gorillas are any less at risk of possible extinction. Already classified as "critically endangered" by the IUCN Red Data List (2000), these gorillas still face an uncertain future as threats to their habitat and from hunting continue to further fragment gorilla groups.

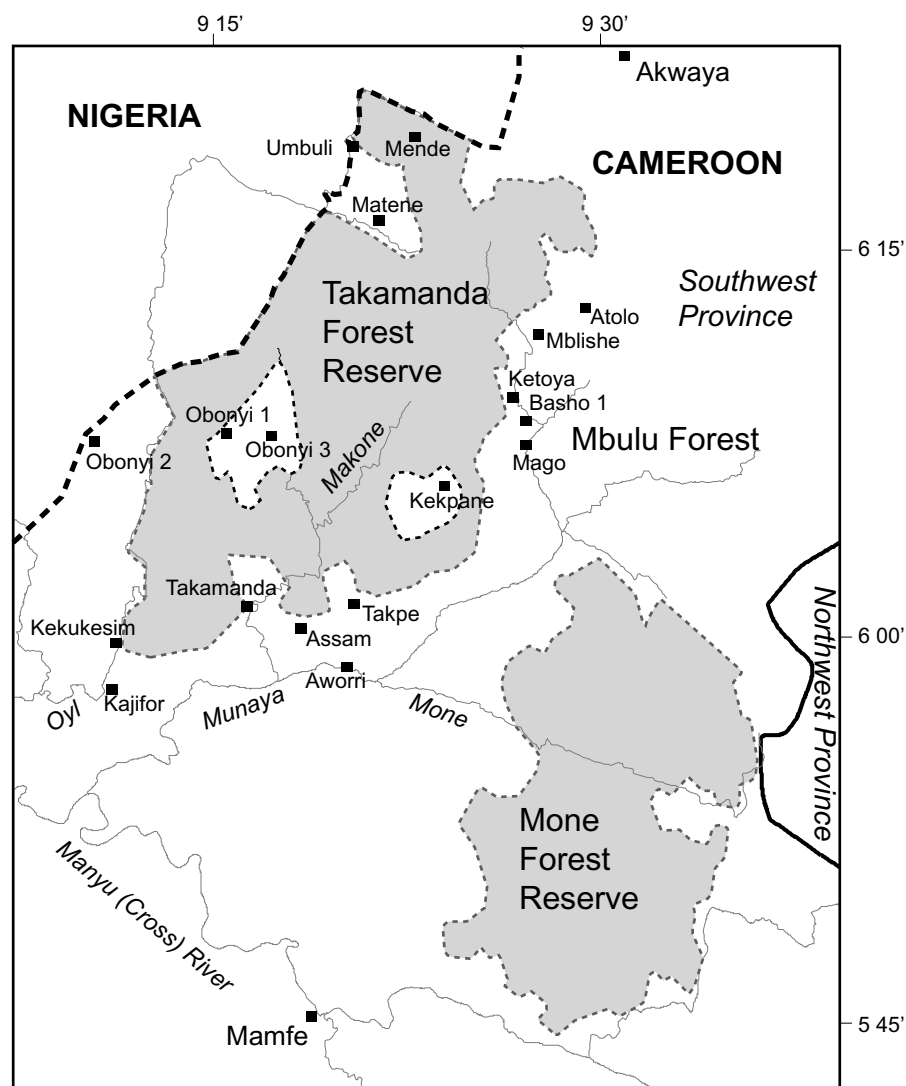
Over the past 4 years, conservation efforts undertaken by the local people in collaboration with the Cross River Gorilla Research Project (Cameroon) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF) project PROFA have markedly reduced gorilla hunting in these areas. However, other threats to the gorillas such as encroachment into their preferred habitat and the construction of a road between two of their known ranges will certainly have an effect in further isolating already existing sub-populations.

Surveys are currently being undertaken to assess the ranging behaviour of the gorillas, who at the present time are known to prefer highland areas and to avoid extensive areas of lowland forest. This may be because hunting is higher in lowland areas than in the highlands. If lowland forest corridors cannot be secured and if gorillas are deterred from using lowland corridors to reach gorilla groups in other highland sites, in-

breeding and loss of genetic variation may imperil isolated groups.

In order to highlight the tenuous future that these unique apes face, a poster and leaflet campaign focusing on the conservation of the Cross River gorilla will be distributed to local communities over the next 2 months. It is hoped that this small-scale education initiative will be followed up with further conservation education activities.

Jacqueline Groves



**Takamanda and Mone Forest Reserve and location of Mbulu Forest**  
Orig. map: Daniel Slayback, SSAI/NASA Goddard Space Centre, J. Groves



# GORILLAS

## Bushmeat Campaign

The EAZA bushmeat campaign is now very active at the political level. Almost 2 million further signatures have been presented after the great handing over ceremony in Brussels, in November 2001, to the petition committee of the EU. A reaction is expected in July. The greatest success was achieved in Great Britain, where the government itself put funds at the disposal of the battle against the bushmeat crisis.

Intensified checks at a London airport showed that bushmeat in considerable quantities is often smuggled in from Ghana. Last winter a confiscated smoked brush-tailed porcupine from Zurich was handed over for identification to the Stuttgart Zoo.

The zoo association wants to continue its close cooperation with other bushmeat initiatives like GRASP (Ian Redmond is a contact person there) and the American *Bushmeat Crisis Task Force*. Much lobby work is being done by the partner IFAW that also sent representatives to certain environmental congresses like the "Bio-diversity Congress" in The Hague in April.

There have been only unofficial talks with African decision-makers at the moment; but official action is planned in August for the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Rio+10). This forum is being prepared for at the time of writing. With regard to the bushmeat campaign there are many important aspects, such as health and sustainability, that have to be discussed at the European and – if possible – also the American level.

The political representatives of the European nations and the embassies of the African countries are to be informed more thoroughly about the bushmeat problem. The fund-raising, though it only made up a small part of the campaign, produced a total of

approximately 70,000 Euro, of which 40,000 were earmarked for particular projects. The rest of the money will help cover the costs of Jef Dupain's project in Cameroon, and what remains will probably be divided between PASA and the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*.

On 3 May we received a message that the Basel Zoo is going to give the proceeds of its entire fund-raising campaign, approximately 9,000 Euro, to *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*. This sum, in addition to another 4,500 Euro from the EAZA Campaign donated by the Zoos of Cologne, Nordhorn, Nuremberg and Karlsruhe, as well as a fund-raising on the occasion of Mr. Krieglsteiner's death (a total of 2,800 Euro), is being provided for urgently needed material for the Kahuzi-Biega National Park. One transport of clothing and equipment has already arrived, another one will be sent later this year.

*Iris Weiche*

## Gorillas and Ebola

WHO is convinced that contact with an infected gorilla triggered the latest Ebola outbreak that killed 53 people in Gabon; 12 infected persons survived. In the neighbouring Republic of Congo, authorities reported 43 deaths, and at least 12 other cases of the disease. The disease was traced to a gorilla found in the north of the country, whose remains tested positive for the Ebola virus.

The outbreak struck in a remote area populated by Pygmies and other peoples. The suspicions of medical workers quickly fell upon primates, which also can contract the virus and die of it.

## Illegal Gorilla Exports from Nigeria

Four young gorillas were sent from Nigeria to Malaysia in January. Officially, these apes were born in the Ibadan zoo – although no gorilla birth has ever been reported in captivity in Nigeria. The recipient of the animals, the Taiping-Zoo in Malaysia planned to send tigers, sunbears and other rare animals to Nigeria in exchange for the gorillas.

It is assumed that the four gorillas are bushmeat orphans that were imported to Nigeria from Cameroon. This is illegal and a violation of CITES which has been signed by Nigeria. The authorities in Johannesburg, the first stop of the gorillas on their way to Malaysia, should have become suspicious but did not investigate the correctness of the CITES permits. Nigerian and international conservation and animal welfare groups protested and demanded the return of the four baby gorillas.

This is not the first case of gorilla smuggling from Nigeria. In September 2001 a gorilla baby had been exported from Nigeria illegally. In Egypt, the ape was confiscated. As the veterinarian at the airport was afraid of disease transmission and did not know what to do (although he could have asked zoo colleagues), he drowned the baby in chemicals.

At the beginning of July, the Nigerian Minister of Environment, Alhaji Muhammadu Kabir Sa'id, according to a press article, "reiterated the Federal Government's commitment to checking the spate of deplorable international trade and illtreatment of the nations endangered wildlife. ... He promised the accelerated completion of the on-going review of wildlife regulations towards enhanced enforcement and the establishment of a committee to investigate the current incidence in order to bring the culprits to book."



# GORILLAS



## **Confiscated brush-tailed porcupine**

*Photo: Luca Siemann, Wilhelma*

The Minister said this move came in the wake of series of letters from various conservationists and environmentalists as well as from the CITES Secretariat. The *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* had also written such a letter as soon as the incident was published.

## **Western Gorillas: Recommendations for their Conservation**

The vast majority of the world's gorillas live in the forests of central west Africa, not in the mountains of east Africa. At a recent meeting (May 2002) in Leipzig, Germany (funded by the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and the *Great Ape Conservation Fund*, US Fish & Wildlife Service), reports from the field were unanimous in showing that western gorillas are threatened by commercial poaching throughout their

range. Field researchers, conservation scientists and representatives of habitat countries, pooled their knowledge to identify solutions in terms of a pragmatic strategy that if implemented immediately will really make a difference.

With immediate investment in law enforcement this decline could be reversed. Although habitat destruction does contribute to the decline, large-scale commercial poaching threatens to drive western gorillas to extinction.

Hunting of gorillas is illegal in all range states, but even in national parks gorillas are not safe. Poaching has reached crisis levels due to the rapid expansion of logging, civil unrest and lack of management capacity. Present conservation activities have not succeeded and the consensus of the expert group at Leipzig is that without truly effective law enforcement western gorillas may go extinct in our lifetimes.

Past international investment has not sufficiently focused on building law enforcement capacity. The international community must immediately help range countries enforce existing national and international laws. In the longer term gorilla conservation should focus on creating a network of effectively managed protected areas funded through sustainable mechanisms such as trust funds.

Focussing on gorillas makes sense as gorillas have a range of characteristics that legitimise their adoption as the emblematic species for conservation in central Africa. Gorillas are charismatic flagships, vulnerable to disturbance, ecologically demanding umbrella species in that if measures are taken to protect them, a myriad of other species that share their habitat will also be protected. Thanks to field research over the past two decades, more is known about gorillas than any other species and the bottom line is that if we are unable to galvanise ef-

forts to conserve western gorillas, the world will be a poorer place for our children to live in.

## **Recommendations**

- 1) Law enforcement capacity is strengthened to allow habitat countries to effectively enforce existing national laws and international conventions that protect gorillas.
- 2) A network of ecologically representative protected areas must be created across the geographical range of western gorillas.
- 3) Sustainable funding mechanisms such as Trust Funds are created to ensure stable and sufficient revenues for management and research within protected areas.
- 4) Precise estimates of the numbers of western gorillas remaining are obtained and a system to monitor future population trends put in place.
- 5) Road access to logging concessions is strictly controlled to reduce the negative impact of selective logging on western gorillas.
- 6) Impact studies are conducted for all new infrastructure projects to minimise the detrimental effects of economic development on western gorillas.
- 7) A system of independent evaluation of conservation and research activities is established to improve effectiveness and transparency.
- 8) A network linking all efforts to conserve western gorillas is established to optimise performance.

## **Conclusions**

The expert group gathered at Leipzig developed a Conservation Strategy for western gorillas based on these recommendations. A fund to protect forever the habitat of these amazing animals would cost only about 3 dollars for each person in the developed world.

<http://www.westerngorilla.org>



## WHO'S WHO?

### Who's Who?

<b>AWF</b>	<b>African Wildlife Foundation.</b> Conservation organization based in the USA. <a href="http://www.awf.org">www.awf.org</a>	<b>FAO</b>	<b>Food and Agriculture Organization.</b> UN organization for food, agriculture, forestry and fishery. Based in Rome, Italy. <a href="http://www.fao.org">www.fao.org</a>
<b>Banyamulenge</b>	Tutsi who had fled from Rwanda and settled in Kivu, especially in the Masisi region, and were driven out of their homes by the Zairean government	<b>FFI</b>	<b>Fauna und Flora International</b> (originally: FFPS). British conservation organization. <a href="http://www.fauna-flora.org">www.fauna-flora.org</a>
<b>BMZ</b>	<b>Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung</b> (German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). <a href="http://www.bmz.de">www.bmz.de</a>	<b>FSC</b>	<b>Forest Stewardship Council.</b> Grants certifications for sustainable logging practices. <a href="http://www.fscoax.org">www.fscoax.org</a>
<b>CADAK</b>	<b>Coordination des Activités de Développement Autour de Kyavirimu.</b> Congolese NGO for the development of the area around Mt. Kyavirimu (or Tshiaberimu), based in Butembo	<b>FUT</b>	<b>Freundeskreis für Ugandas Tierwelt</b> (Friends of Ugandan Wildlife). German NGO; supports conservation projects in Uganda, especially in the national parks
<b>CARE</b>	<b>Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere.</b> American aid organization which is privately maintained; subsidiary organizations in many countries. <a href="http://www.care.org">www.care.org</a>	<b>GEF</b>	<b>Global Environmental Facility. World Bank</b> program for the environment. <a href="http://www.worldbank.org/html/gef">www.worldbank.org/html/gef</a>
<b>CITES</b>	<b>Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species.</b> Prevents or regulates international trade in endangered plants and animals as well as products made from them. <a href="http://www.cites.org">www.cites.org</a>	<b>GRASP</b>	<b>Great Ape Survival Project. UNEP</b> program for the conservation of great apes. <a href="http://www.unep.org/grasp">www.unep.org/grasp</a>
<b>CRSN</b>	<b>Centre de Recherche en Sciences Naturelles</b> (Center for Scientific Research). Research center in Lwiro in eastern Congo	<b>GTZ</b>	<b>Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit</b> (Society for Technical Cooperation). Developmental aid organization of the German government. <a href="http://www.gtz.de">www.gtz.de</a>
<b>DFGF</b>	<b>Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund</b> (originally: Digit Fund). Organization founded by Dian Fossey. Since its foundation, it has supported the Karisoke Research Centre in Rwanda, the rangers who patrol the area and the monitoring of the gorilla groups habituated for research. Today, DFGF also is working in Congo. DFGF International: <a href="http://www.gorillafund.org">www.gorillafund.org</a> ; DFGF UK: <a href="http://www.dianfossey.org">www.dianfossey.org</a>	<b>HRW</b>	<b>Human Rights Watch. NGO</b> that investigates and exposes human rights violations. <a href="http://www.hrw.org">www.hrw.org</a>
<b>EAZA</b>	<b>European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.</b> <a href="http://www.eaza.net">www.eaza.net</a>	<b>ICCN</b>	<b>Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature</b> (Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation). Formerly: IZCN. National park authority in the Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>ECOFAC</b>	<b>Conservation et utilisation rationnelle des Ecosystèmes Forestiers en Afrique Centrale</b> (Conservation and Rational Utilisation of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa). An EU program that supports seven projects in seven African countries. <a href="http://www.ecofac.org">www.ecofac.org</a>	<b>IFAW</b>	<b>International Fund for Animal Welfare.</b> Based in London. <a href="http://www.ifaw.org">www.ifaw.org</a>
		<b>IGCP</b>	<b>International Gorilla Conservation Programme</b> (French: PICG). Successor to the <i>Mountain Gorilla Project</i> which managed gorilla tourism in Rwanda. Funded by <b>FFI</b> , <b>AWF</b> , <b>WWF</b> ; based in Nairobi
		<b>IMF</b>	<b>International Monetary Fund.</b> <a href="http://www.imf.org">www.imf.org</a>
		<b>Interahamwe</b>	Hutu militia who prepared their villages for the genocide in Rwanda in 1994; they organized most village killings.
		<b>IPPL</b>	<b>International Primate Protection League.</b> Organization for the protection of primates. <a href="http://www.ippl.org">www.ippl.org</a>
		<b>IPS</b>	<b>International Primatological Society.</b> Scientific society for primate research
		<b>IRIN</b>	<b>UN Integrated Regional Information Networks.</b> <a href="http://www.reliefweb.int">www.reliefweb.int</a>





## WHO'S WHO?

<b>ITFC</b>	<i>Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation.</i> Institute of Mbarara University; manages research in the national parks of southwestern Uganda.	<b>RI</b>	<i>Refugees International.</i> <a href="http://www.refintl.org">www.refintl.org</a>
<b>IUCN</b>	<i>International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources</i> (French: UICN). Union of more than 800 governmental and non-governmental organizations. Based in Gland, Switzerland. <a href="http://www.iucn.org">www.iucn.org</a>	<b>SSC</b>	<i>Species Survival Commission.</i> IUCN commission which develops and carries out programs for the conservation of biological diversity
<b>JGI</b>	<i>Jane Goodall Institute.</i> Organization for the conservation of chimpanzees (meanwhile also other wildlife) founded by Jane Goodall. Based in the USA. <a href="http://www.janegoodall.org">www.janegoodall.org</a>	<b>SSN</b>	<i>Species Survival Network.</i> Union of numerous NGOs that work together to achieve a better implementation of the legislation for species conservation
<b>KfW</b>	<i>Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau</i> (Credit Institute for restoration). Central German institution that provides loans; funded by the federal and land governments. <a href="http://www.kfw.de">www.kfw.de</a>	<b>UNEP</b>	<i>United Nations Environment Programme.</i> <a href="http://www.unep.org">www.unep.org</a>
<b>MAF</b>	<i>Morris Animal Foundation.</i> American veterinary organization	<b>UNESCO</b>	<i>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.</i> <a href="http://www.unesco.org">www.unesco.org</a> ; World Heritage: <a href="http://www.unesco.org/whc">www.unesco.org/whc</a>
<b>Mai-Mai</b>	Guerrilla warriors in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo	<b>UNHCR</b>	<i>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.</i> <a href="http://www.unhcr.ch">www.unhcr.ch</a>
<b>MGCF</b>	<i>The Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund.</i> Initiated by Ruth Keesling. <a href="http://www.mgcf.net">www.mgcf.net</a>	<b>USAID</b>	<i>United States Agency for International Development.</i> Developmental aid organization of the USA Government. <a href="http://www.usaid.gov">www.usaid.gov</a>
<b>MGVP</b>	<i>Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project.</i> A MAF project in Rwanda for gorilla health care in the Virunga Volcanoes and the Bwindi Impenetrable Park. <a href="http://www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org/Mountain_Gorilla.html">www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org/Mountain_Gorilla.html</a>	<b>UWA</b>	<i>Uganda Wildlife Authority.</i> Ugandan authority for wildlife conservation. <a href="http://www.uwa.or.ug">www.uwa.or.ug</a>
<b>MLC</b>	<i>Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo</i> (Movement for the Liberation of Congo). Rebel movement in the Democratic Republic of Congo led by Jean-Pierre Bemba. Controls the northern part of the country. Supported by Uganda	<b>WCF</b>	<i>Wild Chimpanzee Foundation.</i> Based in Leipzig, Germany. <a href="http://www.wildchimps.org">www.wildchimps.org</a>
<b>MONUC</b>	UN peacekeeping troops in Congo	<b>WCS</b>	<i>Wildlife Conservation Society</i> (originally: WCI). American conservation organization; based in New York. <a href="http://www.wcs.org">www.wcs.org</a>
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization	<b>WCU</b>	<i>Wildlife Clubs of Uganda.</i> Ugandan NGO. <a href="http://www.africaonline.co.ug/clubs.html">www.africaonline.co.ug/clubs.html</a>
<b>ORTPN</b>	<i>Office Rwandais du Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux.</i> Rwandan national park authority	<b>WFP</b>	<i>World Food Programme</i> (French: PAM). UN relief program. <a href="http://www.wfp.org">www.wfp.org</a>
<b>Oxfam</b>	<i>Oxford Committee for Famine Relief.</i> British relief organization. <a href="http://www.oxfam.org.uk">www.oxfam.org.uk</a>	<b>WHO</b>	<i>World Health Organization.</i> Based in Geneva, Switzerland. <a href="http://www.who.int">www.who.int</a>
<b>PASA</b>	<i>Pan African Sanctuary Alliance.</i> Cooperation of African ape orphanages	<b>World Bank</b>	Special UN organization which gives loans to projects in developing countries. IBRD: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; IDA: International Development Association. <a href="http://www.worldbank.org">www.worldbank.org</a>
<b>POPOF</b>	<i>Pole Pole Foundation.</i> Conservation and development NGO in Bukavu, supported from Japan	<b>WSPA</b>	<i>World Society for the Protection of Animals.</i> Animal protection network of more than 300 member societies in over 70 countries. <a href="http://www.wspa-international.org">www.wspa-international.org</a>
<b>RCD</b>	<i>Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie</i> (Congolese Rally for Democracy). Rebel movement in the Democratic Republic of Congo. RCD-Goma (controls the southeastern part of the country): supported by Rwanda; RCD-ML (controls the northeastern part of the country): supported by Uganda	<b>WWF</b>	<i>World Wide Fund for Nature.</i> International conservation organization. Headquarters of WWF International: Gland, Switzerland. <a href="http://www.panda.org">www.panda.org</a> . Numerous national organizations; WWF USA: <i>World Wildlife Foundation</i>
<b>REA</b>	<i>Rettet die Elefanten Afrikas</i> e. V. (Save Africa's Elephants). German NGO based in Hamburg	<b>ZGF</b>	<i>Zoologische Gesellschaft Frankfurt</i> von 1858 e. V. (Zoological Society of Frankfurt). German conservation organization; based in Frankfurt Zoo

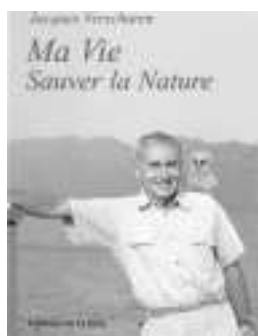


## READING

### Jacques Verschuren

**Ma vie sauver la nature.** Sint-Martens-latem (Editions de la Dyle) 2001. 529 pages, paperback, Euro 31. ISBN 90-76526-11-7. The book can be ordered at:

Editions de la Dyle  
Pontstraat 80  
B-9831 Sint-Martens-Latem  
(Deurle), Belgium  
Tel. +32-92810058  
Fax +32-92810670.



Jacques Verschuren is one of the genuine pioneers of African wildlife conservation. He was already engaged in surveying and protecting nature in Congo during colonial times; his work and his thoughts were formed during the 1950s and 1960s. He supports the approach that conservation means no human intervention.

This book, a kind of autobiography, includes many decades of conservation experience – mainly in Congo. Jacques Verschuren describes his experience with many famous people like Dian Fossey. Mobutu appointed him the manager of the Congolese national parks and consulted him when he wanted to create new parks; one of them was Maiko, another one was Salonga. However, Verschuren acted according to his own judgement, even if this was against the regulations of the IZCN.

Apparently he has the impression that his merits for conservation have not been acknowledged sufficiently

and wants to correct this with this impressive book. It is a legacy for younger conservationists. Jacques Verschuren recalls his experiences, usually in short sequential episodes and thoughts. He describes his "safari", which means exploring nature by walking and camping in the wilderness. This is Verschuren's approach to conservation – not the theoretical considerations and computer analyses that often characterize present day conservation projects. He proudly describes how he saved the Virunga National Park after independence, although everybody warned him not to stay in that dangerous situation.

Apart from his experiences in Africa, Europe and a few other places around the world, he has included short texts with his personal opinions on various subjects that are important to him (e. g. hunting, tourism...), and he describes the techniques that he used during his work for conservation (e. g. wildlife photography and the planning of a "safari"). The author does not claim to analyze the situation in Africa objectively and the references are restricted to his own publications.

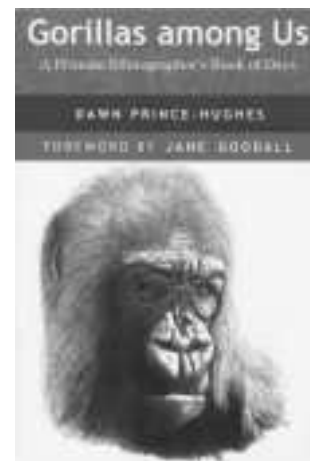
Regarding the future of Congo's national parks, Jacques Verschuren is very pessimistic and criticizes the present trend to emphasize the needs of humans and ignore those of wildlife – and the idea that wildlife has to pay for the right to survive. We can only do our best to make sure that his approach will also survive.

*Angela Meder*

### Dawn Prince-Hughes

**Gorillas among Us.** A Primate Ethnographer's Book of Days. Tucson (University of Arizona Press) 2001. 139 pages, 14 illustr. Hardcover US\$ 40, ISBN 0-8165-2150-6. Paperback US\$ 17.95, ISBN 0-8165-2151-4.

This is not a scientific book, nor is it a novel – it is something in-between.



Dawn Prince-Hughes wrote her book as a diary of a person who observes gorillas in a fictitious zoo.

When I met her in 1989 while we were both studying gorilla behaviour in Seattle, I was impressed by her unusual, very emotional and intuitive way of looking at the gorillas. Probably this unusual approach is what is necessary to write a book like this. Reading it is a pleasure for various people interested in gorillas. Persons who are used to studying gorillas will find stories they may have experienced themselves, and that sound very familiar. On the other hand, gorilla friends who do not yet have a good idea of how gorillas live will find the book very useful because it is an easy but well-founded introduction to all aspects of zoo gorilla life.

Scientists, especially women, are often very careful to avoid emotional comments on their subjects because they fear that criticism by colleagues might damage their respectability. Dawn Prince-Hughes does not try to avoid getting involved. For her the emotional relationship between the visitor and the gorillas is an extremely interesting and rewarding aspect of her work. Only on such a basis could she have written such a book about such fascinating creatures.

*Angela Meder*



## READING

**Bill Weber and Amy Vedder**

**In the Kingdom of Gorillas:** Fragile Species in a Dangerous Land. New York (Simon & Schuster) 2001. 384 pages, hardcover, US\$ 27.50. ISBN 0-743-30006-3

**David Hulme and Marshall W. Murphree**

**African Wildlife & Livelihoods:** The Promise and Performance of Community Conservation. Westport (Heinemann) 2001. 344 pages, paperback, US\$ 26.95. ISBN 0-325-07059-8

**Sue Boinski and Paul A. Garber (eds.)**

**On the Move:** How and Why Animals Travel in Groups. Chicago (University of Chicago Press) 2000

**Richard Mackay**

**The Atlas of Endangered Species.** Threatened plants and animals of the world. London (Earthscan) 2002. 128 pages, full colour photographs, maps, figures, tables. Paperback, £ 11.99. ISBN 1-85383-874-8.

**A. B. Assensoh and Yvette M. Alex-Assensoh**

**African History and Politics. Ideological and Military Incursions, 1900–Present.** St. Martin's Press 2001/2002. 284 pages. Hardcover, US\$ 55, £ 35. ISBN 0-312-23893-2. Paperback, US\$ 24.95. ISBN 0-312-24039-2.

**John K. Raison, A.G. Brown, David Flinn (eds.)**

**Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.** Oxford (Oxford University Press) 2001. Hardcover, 464 pages, US\$ 120. ISBN: 0851993923.

### Gorilla Gazette

The *Gorilla Gazette*, a newsletter designed for gorilla keepers and people professionally involved in gorilla conservation and research, will now be published by the *Dewar Wildlife Trust/ Gorilla Haven*.

For more information about subscriptions, please contact Jane Dewar (jdewar@gorilla-haven.org). Or see the *Gorilla Haven* website at <http://www.gorilla-haven.org>

### New on the Internet

In May 2000, a congress was held in Chicago called "The apes: challenges for the 21st century". The contributions to this congress can be downloaded in PDF format from the internet. You will find them at <http://www.brookfieldzoo.org> if you click on "conservation".

[www.brookfieldzoo.org](http://www.brookfieldzoo.org) if you click on "conservation".

In May, researchers and conservationists working with western gorillas met in Leipzig, Germany. They decided to start an alliance to fight for their survival. On their website <http://www.westerngorilla.org> they present themselves and their aims (see also recommendations on page 14).

Some new reports on the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are available for downloading. RI published their study *Beyond the Volcano, A Slow Motion Holocaust* at <http://www.refintl.org/cgi-bin/ri/bulletin?bc=00363>. At <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/policy/papers/drc/povertywealth.htm> the Oxfam Paper *Poverty in the midst of Wealth* can be downloaded as RTF file.

### Visiting the "Documenta" in Kassel?

Then you are also most welcome to visit a little exhibition called "gorilla handy" – an installation presented by the Kassel artist Gerhild Werner on the bushmeat crisis and coltan industry. It focuses on the relationship between mobile phones in the developed countries and gorilla hunting in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"gorilla handy" can be seen and heard within the art project "TRA.FO 2002" in a transformer house, a preserved monument at the Lutherplatz in the city centre of Kassel. The installation will be shown from 14 August to the beginning of September.

Opening day: 13 August 2002, 7.30 pm





# BERGGORILLA & REGENWALD DIREKTHILFE

## Finances

### Income 2001

Subscriptions	20,908.49 DM
Donations	51,826.19 DM
Refund from meeting	179.17 DM
Sales	4,569.45 DM
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,483.30 DM</b>

### Expenses 2001

Administration	848.25 DM
Expenses Directors	3,379.60 DM
Gorilla Journal	11,704.06 DM
Subscriptions	461.05 DM
Items/postage for sale	1,353.80 DM
Refund credit	8,000.00 DM
Pay/top-ups Uganda	5,985.53 DM
Equipment	7,118.60 DM
Office Uganda	1,670.00 DM
Travel expenses	4,538.47 DM
Bushmeat projects	5,000.00 DM
Project support	10,620.52 DM
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,679.88 DM</b>

We thank everybody who supported us from 1 November 2001 to 20 May 2002. Major contributions and donations were received from Klaus Baumgarten, Walburga Dönges, Helga Eberharter, Horst Engel, Michael Erhardt, Jörg Famula, *Hundeleben* GmbH, Ursula Karlowski, Edelgart Kipka, Hartmann Knorr, Herbert Koel, Ruth Kreutz, Paula Leuer, Angela Meder, Günther Peter, A. Ruoff, Andreas Vaeth, Gabriele Witte, Elisabeth Zaruba and Helmut and Susanne Zeitler.

We also received donations of various equipment; Cornelia Klimmer convinced one of her colleagues to send us a few knapsacks, and Marianne Famula, *Siemens* München, sent us a notebook computer donated by a colleague. This notebook was handed over to Claude Sikubwabo Kiyengo in July and will replace the one he lost when Mt. Nyiragongo erupted. The company STRABAG donated money for gumboots. Erwin Fidelis Reisch (*Gentner*

*Verlag Stuttgart*) took charge of the reproduction and composition costs for the *Gorilla Journal*. We are grateful for the confidence of these and of all the other supporters.

## Meeting

At the first weekend in March, the members' meeting of the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* took place in Bochum. 32 members took part, and in addition many friends, interested persons and guests of the organization. They all wanted to learn everything about the present situation in the Central African countries and about special gorilla conservation projects.

Important subjects were, among others, the situation and activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Rwanda and Uganda as well as the international bushmeat problem. After an interesting program during the day with talks by Karsten Otte, Cherry Kabulo Gbushu and Johannes Refisch, the evening included lively conversation at the bar and videos.

On the second day, the organization reported on its structure, the support of members and friends, as well as the future plans. The official members' meeting followed. The reports of



**Some of our longest-standing members: Rolf Brunner, Heinz Zaruba, Manfred Hartwig, Uwe Kribus**

Photo: Iris Weiche

the treasurer and the Board of Directors were accepted by the members. A new Board was elected: Andreas Fretz, Angela Meder and Carola Vogelsberg. Rolf Brunner was re-elected as treasurer. The former Board members Karl-Heinz Kohnen and Iris Weiche left the Board. They had supported the organization for many years with their knowledge and energy and were responsible for its success. Although they are no longer members of the Board, they continue to support the *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe* and give us the benefit of their experience. They received an ovation for their invaluable contributions to gorilla conservation.

Uwe Kribus



**The new Board of Directors: Andreas Fretz, Carola Vogelsberg, treasurer Rolf Brunner, Angela Meder**

Photo: Iris Weiche



## A NEW SAFARI ALTERNATIVE

**Mgahinga Safari Lodge** is a new luxury lodge, perched at the tip of a peninsula jutting into the waters of Lake Mutanda, in southwestern Uganda. The lodge is the ideal setting from which to track the mountain gorilla in nearby Mgahinga Gorilla National Park; venture deep into Bwindi Impenetrable Forest; search for savannah antelope in Lake Mburo National Park; or visit Lake Bunyonyi – renowned as the 'lake of little birds and sweet water fish'.

The lodge complex consists of a main building – which houses the reception, restaurant, lounge and bar – and six spacious, twin-bedded tents. All equipment at the lodge is of the highest European standard. The tents are en suite, with hot showers and flush toilets, and have continental quilts and pillows. Soft drinks and laundry service are provided. The restaurant serves a high standard of continental and traditional cuisine accompanied by a selection of local and international wines and spirits.

For further information contact:

**Niedermeier Verwaltungs- und Touristik GmbH**

Kurt Niedermeier, Seeshaupter Str. 17

D-81476 Muenchen/Germany

Tel: +49-89 759 79 626

Fax: +49-89-759-79-627

E-mail: MSLGorilla@aol.com

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## Subscription to the *Gorilla Journal*

If you become a member, you will receive the journal regularly. If you want to subscribe without becoming a member, we would be grateful if you could make a donation to cover our costs. The costs to send the journal overseas are about US\$ 20. Please send your application with a cheque to Rolf Brunner (address below).

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## Declaration of Membership

Starting with the following date \_\_\_\_ I declare my membership in *Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ male ☐ female ☐

☐ I want to receive a printed copy of the Gorilla Journal

☐ I want to be informed if the new issue can be downloaded from the internet. My email: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly subscription (please mark)

☐ US\$ 25 (Student)

☐ US\$ 75 (General member)

☐ US\$ 120 (Family)

☐ US\$ 180 (Donor)

Date and signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to:

**Rolf Brunner**

***Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe***

**Lerchenstr. 5**

**45473 Muelheim, Germany**

**Fax +49-208-7671605**

Bank account:

***Berggorilla & Regenwald Direkthilfe***

Account number 353 344 315

Stadtsparkasse Muelheim, Germany

Bank code number 362 500 00